Troubleshooting: How to remove unknown stains from nora® rubber floorings.

For many decades, nora® rubber floorings have convinced architects, main contractors, installers and customers with their outstanding product quality. Besides the huge range of colours and designs, PVC-free nora® floorings offer an extraordinary wear-resistance, excellent walking comfort and anti-slip properties. Being extremely durable floorings, they guarantee low lifecycle costs.

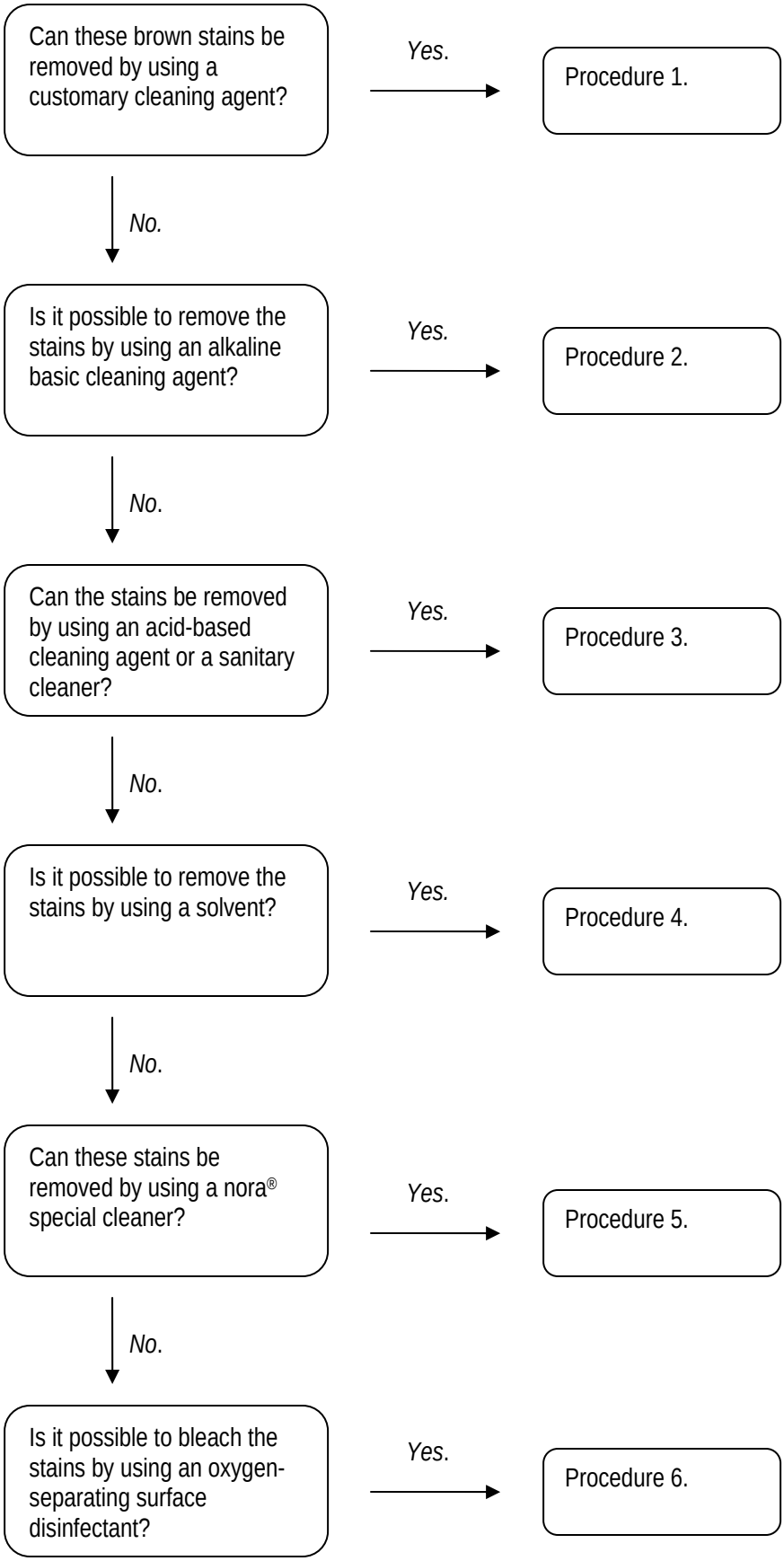
The vulcanised finish of nora® rubber floorings creates an extremely dense surface, which is easy to clean and thus saves times and money; however, during the life of the floor, staining may occur, and if the source of the stains is unknown, removal may be problematic.

If there is no information on the source of stains, we would recommend starting cleaning with gentle detergents, then increase their concentration or use stronger cleaning agents if the stains cannot be removed.

Eventually, we have created the following guideline. Step by step, we will demonstrate and explain how to best remove these stains.

Example: In a hospital's intensive care unit, brown stains from a completely unknown source have occurred on nora® rubber flooring (picture no. 1).

(picture no. 1)


Can these brown stains be removed by using a customary cleaning agent?
Yes.
Procedure 1.
No.
Is it possible to remove the stains by using an alkaline basic cleaning agent?
Yes.
Procedure 2.
No.
Can the stains be removed by using an acid-based cleaning agent or a sanitary cleaner?
Yes.
Procedure 3.
No.
Is it possible to remove the stains by using a solvent?
Yes.
Procedure 4.
No.
Can these stains be removed by using a nora® special cleaner?
Yes.
Procedure 5.
No.
Is it possible to bleach the stains by using an oxygen-separating surface disinfectant?
Yes.
Procedure 6.

Note: Always wear goggles and gloves when working with chemical disinfections!

Procedure 1: Stain removal by using a customary cleaning agent

Starting with a regular cleaning agent, we would recommend applying it undiluted with a floor cleaning cloth. The result can be improved by *gently* using a white or red cleaning pad. Excess pressure must be avoided!

Procedure 2: Stain removal by using an alkaline basic cleaning agent

If removal with a regular cleaning agent failed, try using an undiluted alkaline basic cleaning agent. The pH value of 12, however, must not be exceeded. The result can be improved by using a red cleaning pad.

Note: The undiluted cleaning agent should only be applied directly on to the stains, and not be used for the general cleaning of the room itself.

Procedure 3: Stain removal by using an acid-based cleaning agent or a sanitary cleaner

Note: Only phosphoric acid-based sanitary cleaners can be used.

In order to improve its effectiveness, a floor cleaning cloth should be wetted with the cleaning agent and placed over the stain for up to 30 minutes (see picture no. 2).

(Picture no. 2)

If the stain can be removed with a sanitary cleaner, the result could be improved by using a red cleaning pad.

Procedure 4: Stain removal by using a solvent such as alcohol or ethyl acetate

First, wet the stains with the solvent. Then use a soft floor cleaning cloth to dab off the residue starting from the outside to the inside of the stain. Extensive wiping is to be avoided as the flooring is more sensitive to solvents; Therefore, mechanical tools such as pads or brushes must not be used.

Procedure 5: Stain removal by using nora® special cleaner

Over the past years, nora® flooring systems has created special cleaners to remove stains which are especially common in hospitals. With Jodolan for instance, iodine caused stains can be removed easily. The cleaners SI 02, TAM 25 or AG3 are best to remove stains which are caused by Eosin G, infusion solutions, Mercurochrome, Methyl Violett, Silver Nitrate, Disulphine Blue and Rivanol. Further details on those products including application and safety advice can be found on our homepage www.nora.com via maintenance -> cleaning recommendation -> stain tables.

Procedure 6: Stain removal by using an oxygen-separating surface disinfectants

When it comes to persistent and old stains, the use of oxygen-separating surface disinfectants such as Dismozon pur (Bode Chemie, Hamburg) or Apesin AP 100 (Tana Chemie GmbH, Mainz) have proven to be efficient.

Recommended application:

1. Sprinkle Dismozon pur on the stain; moisten with water, e. g. from a spray bottle, and gently mix with the help of a cloth until the solution foams.

   Note: Adequate ventilation must be provided!

2. Leave to soak for approximately 15 minutes (depending on age and intensity of the stain), then clean the area by using a single-pad cleaning machine with a soft brush and / or red pad.

3. Aqua vacuum the residue.

4. Thoroughly wipe the floor (neutralise) with clean water (e.g. Vileda UltraSpeed System) and vacuum the residue.

5. If the flooring has only been cleaned partially in accordance to point 1, the cleaned area might be a little lighter compared to the outer area. In this case, use a suitable alkaline basic cleaner for the total area in order to re-establish a unified appearance.

6. After the intensive stain removal, the flooring is to be protected with a suitable wash polish (maintainer) in increased concentration, according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The applied wash polish film should then be buffed by polishing (e.g. Vileda DynaCross Pads).

Stains caused by medicines containing dopamine

(picture no. 3)

In intensive care units, stains are likely to be caused by medicines containing dopamine. Due to reactions with cleaning, care or disinfection products, spilled colourless infusion solutions which contain "Dopamine" cause brown stains, irrespective of the type of flooring. The only way to avoid stains is to remove this originally colourless product immediately. Fresh stains up to 3 days old can be wiped away by simple mopping with customary phosphoric acid-based sanitary cleaners (see procedure 6).

Please visit our website or call us if you need any further information.

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